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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1913.

A Political Plaything.

The District Commissioners have conferred for the first time with Henry Bruere, director of the New York Bureau of Municipal Research. The conference is expected to pave the way for the plan to make of the National Capital a model city in administrative methods, a model which will invite imitation on the part of other American Commonwealths.

With the purpose of the plan, no reasonable or honest agency can quarrel. With the plan itself, in so far as it has been outlined to the press and to President Wilson by Mr. Bruere and John Purroy Mitchell, we are in perfect accord. In so far as one city may serve as a model for another, Washington might more easily be made that model than almost any city in the country.

And it is a fine sentiment to desire the Nation's Capital to be a source of light and inspiration to her sister municipalities.

But we do want to say here and now, and in large type, that IF THE MODUS OPERANDI IN MAKING THE PRELIMINARY SURVEY IS TO BE SIMILAR TO THAT EMPLOYED BY SELF-SEEKING CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATORS WE ARE "AGIN IT."

The District has been "investigated" these last two years until even the patient has lost interest in the operation. Out of these investigations, the terrible disclosures from which have shaken the country and meant much to certain ambitious gentlemen of doubtful mentality, the District has received not one piece of constructive legislation. The process has been one of destructive and not constructive activity. With the ruins of a city's fair fame cluttering his path, the weary investigator, like a play-satiated child, turns again to the contemplation of his own greatness, and the country shudders at the wickedness, graft, filth, and whatnot of the National Capital.

And the National Capital, not having a Congressional Record and unlimited use of the United States mails at her disposal, must needs sit back and permit the country to absorb this tissue of half-truths and unproven insinuations, that some light-wit may appear to his constituents as a modern Hercules cleansing municipal Augean stable.

It is against this kind of "investigation," with its appeal to the penny gallery, that Mr. Bruere and the Commissioners must guard.

International Marriages.

Two marriages of international interest held the "first-page importance" for Washington this week. The one was the marriage of Mr. William F. Hitt and Miss Katherine Elkins; the other, that of Miss Leishman to the Duke of Croy. Calm and dispassionate observers of the amorous are not unanimous in the indorsement of the theory that all the world loves a lover. But it can be asserted unequivocally, nem. con., in print or by word of mouth in any assemblage from here to the farthest jungle of darkest Africa that all the world loves a love story.

Everybody who thinks he knows says that the two marriages reported were the climatic chapters of love stories, and that the live-happily-ever-afterward is the epilogue that only fancy needs to write. Certainly no other distinctly personal news could have held the attention of Washington people so wholly. Both the American girl who chose a duke and the American girl who put away a duke to marry "a plain American" have a real place in Capital interest and in Capital life. The "plain American" has hardly a less place.

A Convention of Useful Men.

The announcement by The Washington Herald this week of the convention of the American Pomological Society, the Eastern Fruit Growers' Association, the Society for Horticultural Science, and the Northern Nut Growers' Association at the New National Museum November 17 to 22 deserves more than passing attention.

Washington is almost in the midst of a great apple country. Smaller fruits and nuts of many varieties thrive in Maryland and Virginia. The convention, therefore, holds a local interest that is very considerable. Men who will gather here are developing a field of agriculture especially important and profitable to us. The promised exhibitions of the best products of this and

other sections of course enhance the interest for those outside the ranks of professional orchardists and nurserymen.

From a general point of view the convention is perhaps even more notable. At its sessions will gather the expert men of the Department of Agriculture, the most successful orchardists and nurserymen of States of every section of the country, and the recognized authorities on pomology and horticulture in the West Indies, the Philippines, Alaska, and other distant lands.

Washington's welcome to such useful scientists and producers is sure to be a hearty one.

Foul Politics.

The most disgraceful side of American politics is now being exploited in the news from New York. The Herald does not pretend to pass judgment on the truthfulness of the stories of either side, but the fact that such a condition exists is a sad reflection on our system of elections.

It has been proven that Mr. Sulzer is not the kind of man to be the head of a great Commonwealth. It would clarify the situation somewhat if he should be eliminated. Yet Mr. Sulzer has accomplished something in his downfall he can pull down Tammany, or to be more explicit, its leader, Murphy, and his system. Just now it looks as though he had, at least temporarily.

If Tammany and its methods are crushed and the clean-minded, graft-abhorring people of the country's metropolis rise in their might and show by their vote that they are in a majority, we will rejoice. As it is at present, New York's political methods are a stench in the nostrils of all decent citizens.

Distinctive Package for Poisons.

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

Since the young banker of Macon, Ga., last May, by mistake, took bichloride of mercury, hardly a day goes by without a similar case being reported.

The intense interest displayed by the public in watching the brave fight of the Georgian, which was given great publicity by the newspapers, made the public familiar with this most deadly poison.

Such cases are to be deplored because they are so needless. The manufacturer who puts out such deadly stuff is primarily responsible for these accidents unless he markets it in such manner the package in which it is sold is distinctive.

Congress could easily forget its squabbles on the currency bill for a few minutes and pass a measure making it compulsory for manufacturers and dealers to send out their dangerous drugs in packages so marked they could not possibly be mistaken for harmless medicines. The Herald suggests a package made up in the shape of a skull or a coffin as a simple method to prevent such sad mistakes. Either one would suggest suffering and death.

Let Congress make it compulsory to use a standard package so marked. By doing this an end would soon be put to such tragic occurrences as are now so frequently reported.

What Washington Really Needs.

It is all right to have a commission to discuss abstract plans of city government and to deal with the high-brow phases of administration, but what Washington really needs is a few municipal bath houses and laundries.

A very prosaic and humble suggestion, and yet one that is deserving of serious consideration by the authorities. There are many sections of the city where the introduction of these institutions would be a great public benefit. They have been tried in other cities with marked success.

They are inexpensive and practical and they help along toward godliness by making people clean.

They are still fitting up the Peace Palace at The Hague, but we don't know why.

They may not poll the most votes, but the fusion crowd in New York are making the most noise.

Julian Hawthorne says the truth about the Atlanta prison is stranger than any fiction that has ever been told about it.

At this distance it looks as if there are quite a good many Ethiopeans in the Mexican woodpile.

The Carnegie Commission, after full investigation, has found that the war in the Balkans was just what Gen. Sherman said it was in this country.

Great Britain will not interfere with our Mexican policy. Haven't we taken Mrs. Pankhurst off her hands?

Although he has mailed the American eagle with the dove of peace, Mr. Bryan should not count his chickens before they are hatched.

What will Secretary Bryan do now? His navy has gone off and left him.

A synonym, Johnnie, is the word you use when you can't think of the right one.

Women vote in Iceland, and the government of that country never causes any international complications.

It is said that the South American jaguar is the most treacherous animal on earth. We are glad it is about to be exterminated.

UNDER THE DOME.

Through his large Jordan-shed spectacles Representative Stevens of Minnesota sees lots of things. He is a good observer.

And when he was abroad—he has just returned, by the way—he observed the manners of the people. Now he has come very emphatic and interesting views which take the edge off so-called Korean culture.

"Americans are criticized," he said yesterday, "for their lack of manners. One traveler has to fight for his rights during every minute of the day. Nothing comes to him by courtesy. I say this without discrimination against any particular nationality. They are all alike. European politeness and culture is a sham. My experience is that the only people abroad with manners are the Americans themselves."

"And as to railway travel," continued Mr. Stevens, "it makes me sick to think of it. The American who is accustomed to the comforts and conveniences of our first-class roads becomes disgusted with the treatment which he receives on railway trains abroad. He is not only denied comfort, but he has to fight to get his money's worth. The trains run fast. When you have said that, you have said all."

"Did you find anything that would induce you to remain abroad?"

"I should say not," replied Mr. Stevens. And he is not a pessimist, either.

If anybody should be asked to guess the age of Representative Stevens of Massachusetts, the answer would be that he is about fifty-five.

Mr. Stevens is twenty-four years old, and he is proud of it. His father lived to be over eighty, and he expects to live to be a hundred. If he does he will still be in Congress. If any man has a cinch on a seat in the National House, it is William Greener of Fall River. He has been in public life for thirty-four years as Mayor, postmaster, and Congressman, and he would be lost if he did not have a campaign on his hands.

"I noticed the other day," said Representative Fane of Ohio yesterday, "that there was some trouble in a Washington theater because a man stood up while The Star Spangled Banner was being played."

"We haven't any law on the National flag, so far as I know," continued Mr. Fane, "although the army and the navy give that distinction to The Star Spangled Banner. Other countries have laws that stand at attention while the air is being played. Most persons think that 'My Country, 'Tis of Thee' is the tune to respect, apparently not knowing that the melody is the British national air. When 'The Star Spangled Banner' is played in Great Britain the audience arises spontaneously and we ought to do the same thing in this country for The Star Spangled Banner."

"The trouble is," continued Mr. Fane, as he paused in the dictation of a letter, "that our national air is not decorously received. It figures too often in medleys, sandwiched in between 'Dixie' and 'Yankee Doodle.' There ought to be a law to prevent this desecration. Upon all patriotic and ceremonial occasions 'The Star Spangled Banner' should be played or sung in dignified fashion. It is either a hymn set apart to typify devotion to the flag or else it is common, everyday music. I think it is the former, and I think ought to be treated with all the dignity which it deserves, and never rendered in conjunction with music with which it has no appropriate connection. That," said Mr. Fane, "is what I think of our national air."

A certain Western Congressman, whose name cannot be dragged into publicity by a thousand yoke of oxen, some time ago met a newspaper correspondent and offered to give him the new personnel of the board selected to assist the Interstate Commerce Commission in the work of physical valuation of railroads. He gave the names, ending with "and a Mr. Williams, of Virginia."

"And a Mr. Williams, of Virginia," repeated the correspondent, with a large question mark on the end of his sentence. "What Mr. Williams?"

"I really don't know," replied the Congressman, "but I think he is a railroad engineer, or something like that."

Well, the next day John Skelton Williams, railroad president, financier, and Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, was made chairman of the board. "A Mr. Williams, of Virginia" had been identified at last!

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES.

Now comes another Halloween when the street crowds are a sight greater than on any other day. All the ghouls and the gnomes have their little wooden houses and easels on the green to show their skill.

They are made with their hands, but they are the old-time tricks; they are eager for the traps and the treats.

They are quite as up to date as the folks of high society who perform the latest dance on the ball.

You can hear the folks who hear the spoon and the glass; you can hear the merry music on the street.

There are fairer voices and the prinkish but higher when the moon has come sweeping over the trees.

You can see the state folk as they do the children; all the wooden folk are out at Halloween.

And the melancholy one is a most estimable fact at the dance they are doing on the green.

The Efficiency Cause.

"Our boss is a crank on efficiency," "What's he up to now?"

"Trying to teach the stenographer to cheer her gun in two movements less per minute to the lower jaw."

Ways of Women.

"I don't understand my wife."

"How now?"

"When I think I'm going to die, she tells me there's nothing the matter with me. Yet sometimes, when I'm feeling my best, she will suddenly burst into tears and say she doesn't know what she is going to do when I am gone."

Halloween Hoot.

When halloween hoot your gait
And enter up your home,
Put the halloween and the halloween
Upon the only games.

Not So Artistic.

"Too notice they celebrate Mother's Day by wearing a flower?"

"Yes."

"There wouldn't be any fun in every girl taking that occasion to relieve another by washing the dishes."

Suitable for Umpires.

"Ball players are going into vaudeville right along."

"They are."

"I'm an umpire. I wonder if I couldn't break in?"

"Why not? You'd be just the man to open the ball, while the orchestra is tuning up, and the audience is hanging the seats. It's a thankless job."

Halloween Games.

If you toss an apple peddle over your left shoulder, it may form an initial of your future husband's name. Or, if an apple peddle is too commonplace, try it with a string of pearls.

With the Political Procession.

By M. B. G.

With Mr. McKim, Mr. Neely, of Fairmont, taking his seat in Congress this week, West Virginia will again have a full delegation of six members.

There is hardly room enough in the State for an additional district, an one member, Howard Rutherford, of Hinton, comes at large.

The coming of Neely, after a short and strenuous two weeks' campaign, gives the Democratic two members of the House, as W. W. Hester, of the old William L. Wilson district, barely got through last November, with fourteen votes to the good. Davis, who resigned the Neely district to become Senator, was General of the United States, with an advance of \$200 a year in salary, also had close scratching last year, with 111 majority. Considering the general smashing of the Republican country over last year, the West Virginia delegation gave the Democrats the Legislature and two United States Senators along with four out of five Representatives. James Hughes, of Huntington, being the only member from the United States House of Representatives to the Republican faith last year was partly due to the fact that there was no third or Progressive party nominations in West Virginia, and that the Republican firm and fervid in the Republican faith is not viewed with much worry or apprehension by Republican leaders in the State.

They point out that there were three tickets this time, and, worse than all, a disposition on the part of voters to stay at home, so that not 40 per cent of the vote was cast. This state of things is fully appreciated by the Democratic leaders, and they are not inclined to any parade or flourish in taking hold of an honor that may not long demand his attention or delish his soul. He is a Republican member from either branch of the Legislature in either branch of the Ohio region of the State, very much dominated at present by that long-headed, resourceful coal magnate, Former Senator Clarence W. Watson, who served a tripe over two years in the Senate, and the Democratic victory of 1910, Watson's firm grip on things even when out of office was indicated when he designated Mr. Neely for the Congressional vacancy.

Some Democrats who thought they were through with Watson when the Republican victory of 1910, Watson's firm grip on things even when out of office was indicated when he designated Mr. Neely for the Congressional vacancy.

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